GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1563
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR INCREASING NUCLEAR POWER
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether atomic energy is being produced on comparatively low rates in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts being made for generating more power from the existing nuclear power plants;

(d) whether any foreign assistance has been sought for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir. The cost of generation from nuclear power plants is competitive compared to contemporary coal thermal power plants located away from coal mines.

(b) The tariffs for generation of electricity from nuclear power plants in operation is in the range from about 84 paise/KWh to 295 paise/KWh with an average of all the operating stations at 226 paise/KWh. The difference in tariff is on account of different years of commence- ment of commercial operations.

(c) The capacity factors (C.Fs) of nuclear power stations in commercial operation have seen progressive improvement based on efforts at
(i) strengthening of monitoring and preventive & predictive maintenance,
(ii) improving outage management,
(iii) intensive training for maintenance and operating staff, and
(iv) effective co-ordination with Regional Electricity Boards to improve frequency control for the grid. The overall capacity factors of nuclear power plants of NPCIL during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are 71%, 75% and 80% respectively. The overall capacity factor of Nuclear Power Plants in the country during 2000-2001 (upto October 2000) is 81%.

(d) No, Sir. However, in terms of the co-operation agreement signed between the Government of India and Russia for setting up 2x1000 MWe Russian VVERs at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Project has been undertaken.

(e) Does not arise.